



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 11 | NOVEMBER 2022

STORY OF AN ANCESTOR'S BELIEF

Sylhet is the largest division in Bangladesh. The large number of ethnic minority communities living in this division, work mostly in the tea gardens. There we have completed data collection from 189 tea gardens as a part of SIL Bangladesh's research work. During this research work we found a community called Bhumij. Bhumij community is living in the Moulovibazar, Kulaura, and Hobiganj Districts of Sylhet Division. Traditionally they all work in the tea gardens from the long time ago.

As a part of our research, I have been collecting various types of stories, most of which are based on their culture and socio-economic status in their society. One of the stories I found is the story of a tea gardener. Among those whom the touch of our so-called modernity has not yet influenced, is Belbati Singh Bhumij, the daughter of Moni Lal Singh and Bishka Singh. She is 37 years old. Belbati has been living at the Laxmichara Tea Garden in Sylhet and working there for many years.

Highlights



Staff Capacity Building Program

Staff Capacity Building Program held in October'22 with all the staff of SIL Bangladesh.

Key Dates

- Nov'22:** MLE ref' training with the Mahale, Kol and the Hajong Communities.
- Nov'22:** Youth Ambassadors Training with the Hajong Communities.
- Nov'22:** Couple Seminar with the Kol, Mahali, Koch and the Hajong Communities.

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their Ethnolinguistic identities.

STORY OF AN ANCESTOR'S BELIEF

We met Belbati Bhumij during our research and saw cuts on her hands and feet. When we asked how that happened, Belbati said it was her congenital disease. She told us, "When I was in my mother's womb, my mother used to tie her pot tightly to a branch of a tree while picking tea leaves. As she did tie her pot tightly, so, my hands and feet are like thorns. On the other hand, if the pregnant woman breaks the rules, the ultimate results will affect the baby." Belbati added, "This is our belief, and we have been learning this from our ancestors."

There are thousands of such Belbati Bhumij around us who practice different types of faith in their daily lives. We think we have far more to contribute to these supposedly marginalized populations and Belvati Bhoomi's tale will motivate us to reflect on them and take appropriate action.

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Local Feeds of October' 22

GNG Leaders' Refreshers Training



GNG Leaders' Refreshers Training
held with the Oraon, and the Hajong Communities.

Reusable Sanitary Napkin Sewing Work



Reusable Sanitary Napkin Sewing Work
is running in SIL BD's area offices.

Focus Group Discussion



Focus Group Discussion
with the Banai community.

SIL

SIL BANGLADESH

LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT.

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